

that if they did not cease their rebellion and return to the Union by January 1, 1863, he would declare their slaves forever free. Needless to say, the proclamation was ignored by those states that seceded from the Union.

Furthermore, the proclamation did not apply to those slave-holding states that did not rebel against the Union. As a result, about 800,000 slaves were unaffected by the provision of the proclamation. It would take a civil war to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation and the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to formally outlaw slavery in the United States.

For many African Americans, Juneteenth has come to symbolize what the 4th of July symbolizes to all Americans—FREEDOM! Annually, on June 19th, in more than 200 cities in the United States, African Americans celebrate this great event. Texas is the only state that has made Juneteenth a legal holiday. Some cities sponsor week-long celebrations, culminating on June 19th, while others hold shorter celebrations.

The anniversary of freedom was not to be forgotten by people who had spent their entire lives in bondage—people for whom the lash had been a common punishment, but whose sting had been compared with the pain of family separations, the indignity of compelled deference, the thought that only the grave would bring emancipation. So in the ensuing years, the joyous events of June 19, 1865, were reenacted, becoming as Juneteenth celebrations. Best Sunday dress, American flags, thankful prayer, music, baseball games and massive quantities of food characterized these African-American gatherings.

Juneteenth not only symbolizes the end of slavery, it also serves as a historical milestone reminding Americans of the triumph of the human spirit over the cruelty of slavery. It honors those African-American ancestors who survived the inhumane institution of bondage, as well as demonstrating pride in the marvelous legacy of resistance and perseverance.

When the blacks in the south heard the news that they were set free, they sang, danced and prayed. There was much rejoicing and jubilation that their life long prayers had finally been answered. Many of the slaves left their masters upon being freed, in search of family members, economic opportunities or simply because they could. They left with nothing but the clothes on their backs and hope in their hearts.

Listen to this account of a former slave—Susan Ross. "When my oldest brother heard we were free, he gave a whoop, ran, jumped a high fence, and told mommy good-bye. Then he grabbed me up and hugged me and said, 'Brother is gone, don't expect you'll ever see me any more,' I don't know where he went, but I never did see him again."

Freedom meant more than the right to travel freely. It meant the right to name one's self and many freedmen gave themselves new names. County courthouses were overcrowded as blacks applied for licenses to legalize their marriages. Emancipation allowed ex-slaves the right to assemble and openly worship as they saw fit. As a result, a number of social and community organizations were formed, many originating from the church. Freedom implied that for the first time, United States laws protected the rights of blacks. There was a run on educational primers as freed men and women sought the education they had for so long been denied them.

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was founded by Congress in March 1865, to provide relief services for former slaves. Schools and churches were established and became centers of the newly-freed communities. The promise of emancipation gave freedmen optimism for the future; few realized slavery's bitter legacy was just beginning to unfold and that equality was to remain an elusive dream.

Ex-slaves entered freedom under the worst possible conditions. Most were turned loose penniless and homeless, with only the clothes on their back. Ex-slaves were, as Frederick Douglass said "free, without roofs, to cover them, or bread to eat, or land to cultivate, and as a consequence died in such numbers as to awaken the hope of their enemies that they would soon disappear." But we did not disappear. We celebrate today not only freedom, but the triumph of the human spirit and the legacy of a people whose struggle for equality continues even today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing this great celebration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, June 16, 2000, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall votes 285 through 291. Had I been present I would have voted "present" on rollcall vote 285, "yes" on rollcall vote 286, "yes" on rollcall vote 287, "no" on rollcall 288, "yes" on rollcall 289, "yes" on rollcall 290, and "no" on rollcall 291.

COMMENDING PRESIDENT KIM DAE-JUNG ON HIS HISTORIC QUEST FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend President Kim Dae-Jung of the Republic of Korea for his historic efforts toward peace and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula.

By extending the hand of friendship in summit meetings with Chairman Kim Jong Il of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, President Kim Dae-Jung has shown himself as a courageous visionary committed to the improvement of relations with the North. The agreement reached by the two leaders on humanitarian and economic cooperation represent a bold step toward resolving a half-century of conflict.

As we prepare to depart on a Presidential Mission to Korea to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, I am filled with hope for the future of all the peoples of that great land.

On behalf of president Clinton and the people of the United States, I join with my former comrades-in-arms, the men of the 503d Field Artillery Battalion who fought in defense of

freedom and democracy in Korea in extending our congratulations to President Kim Dae-Jung and our best wishes for success in his great mission of peace.

A TRIBUTE TO JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 19, 2000

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to pay tribute to Juneteenth Independence Day. June 19, 1865 is the date that the news of freedom reached slaves in Texas; two and a half years after President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This holiday is now celebrated throughout our country as a time of joy, remembrance, and reflection.

It is my sincere hope that all Americans recognize this as a day of freedom . . . freedom to learn one's history . . . freedom to shape one's own identity . . . freedom to control one's own life. In Wisconsin's Second Congressional District, Juneteenth will be recognized with a wonderful celebration organized by the Nehemiah Community Development Corporation. This annual celebration includes beautiful cultural exhibits, colorful dancing, delicious food, exciting entertainment, music and much more! I want to commend the organizers of this and other important celebrations taking place in Wisconsin and throughout the United States.

Former U.S. Representative Barbara Jordan captured the aspirations of many who recognize the important symbolism of this day. She said, "What the people want is simple. They want an American as good as its promise." How true her words are. Locally and nationally, the struggle for equality continues, but this holiday offers hope for a better future.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4578) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in favor of the Sanders amendment to create a home heating oil reserve in the Northeast.

As many of you know, last winter we had a severe oil crisis in the Northeast. Low temperatures combined with record high prices left thousands of Massachusetts residents struggling to pay enormous heating bills.

Middle income families saw their utility bills triple while lower income families had to choose between heating their homes and feeding their children.

Those of us who witnessed these hardships want to do all we can to make sure they never, ever happen again.